

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 IO-12 ADP-00 AID-20 CEA-02 CIAE-00 COME-00

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AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN
AMEMBASSY DUBLIN
AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG
AMEMBASSY OSLO
AMEMBASSY PARIS
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USMISSION GENEVA
USMISSION OECD PARIS UNN

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E. O.11652: N/A

TAGS: ETRD, EFIS, EC, NO

SUBJECT: AGREEMENT REACHED ON EC- NORWEGIAN TRADE NEGOTIATIONS

REF: EC BRUSSELS 1693

1. SUMMARY: THE COMMISSION OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES
AND NORWAY HAVE SETTLED THE LAST OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS
IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FREE TRADE
AGREEMENT. THE NORWEGIANS BELIEVE THAT THEY HAVE A
GOOD AGREEMENT TO LAY BEFORE THE STORTING, AND ARE,
IN PARTICULAR, PLEASED WITH THEIR ACHIEVEMENTS IN FISH
PRODUCTS. THE AGREEMENT WILL BE INITIALED APRIL 16, AND
ASIGNED AT THE NEXT EC COUNCIL (FOREIGN MINISTERS) ON
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MAY 14. THE FIRST TARIFF CUTS ARE EXPECTED TO TAKE
PLACE JULY 1, END SUMMARY.

2. THE EC AND NORWEGIAN NEGOTIATORS HAVE REACHED A
SETTLEMENT ON THE LAST OF THE OUTSTANDING PROBLEMS INVOLVED
IN THEIR NEGOTIATIONS FOR AN INDUSTRIAL FREE TRADE AREA.
ON UNWROUGHT ALUMINUM, THE COMMUNITY'S INITIAL OFFER OF A
FIRST- YEAR QUOTA OF 190,000 TONS WITH ANNUAL INCREASES,
HAS BEEN SUPPLEMENTED BY THE ALLOCATION OF AN ADDITIONAL
80,000 TONS FOR " TEMPORARY ADMISSION" TO THE COMMUNITY AND
RE- EXPORT AFTER MANUFACTURE. IN THE SECOND YEAR OF THE
AGREEMENT, 120,000 TONS COULD BE IMPORTED UNDER THIS
PROVISION. IF THE " TEMPORARY ADMISSION" QUOTA IN ONE YEAR
IS NOT FULLY USED, THE REMAINDER CAN BE ADDED TO
THE BASIC UNWROUGHT ALUMINUM QUOTA FOR THE NEXT YEAR.

3. WHILE " REASONABLY SATISFIED" ON THE INDUSTRIAL SIDE,
THE NORWEGIANS ARE " PLEASED" WITH THE FINAL RESULT ON
FISH. THE COMMUNITY, WHICH STARTED FROM A POSITION OF
NON- INCLUSION OF FISH IN THE AGREEMENT, FINALLY AGREED
TO CUT THE TARIFF WITHIN FOUR YEARS TO 3 PERCENT ON
FROZEN FISH FILLETS, TO 7 AND A HALF PERCENT ON FROZEN
SHRIMP AND TO 12 AND HALF PERCENT ON CANNED SARDINES.
WHILE THE NORWEGIANS HAVE BEEN ADAMANT THAT ANY ACCEPTABLE
AGREEMENT HAD TO INCLUDE FROZEN FISH FILLETS, THEY HAD BEEN
PRIVATELY SKEPTICAL THAT THEY WOULD SUCCEED IN OBTAINING
CONCESSIONS ON SHRIMP AND CANNED SARDINES.

4. PREDICTABLY, THE NORWEGIAN HOPE THAT THE COMMUNITY
WOULD AGREE TO SOME EXPLICIT FORMULA FOR MUTUAL CONSULTATIONS
ON MARTIME TRANSPORT POLICY HAS NOT BEEN MET. THERE WILL
HOWEVER BE AN EXCHANGE OF LETTERS WHICH WILL MAKE GENERAL
REFERENCE TO THE POSSIBILITY THAT EACH SIDE COULD NAME
DELEGATES TO SPECIAL MEETINGS WHICH COULD DISCUSS INTER ALIA
MARITIME TRANSPORT POLICY. EVEN THE NORWEGIANS SAY THAT
THESE POSSIBLE MEETINGS WILL HAVE TO AWAIT THE DEVELOPMENT
OF A COMMUNITY POLICY.

5. NO DATE HAS YET BEEN SET FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF
THAT PART OF THE ACCORD WHICH DEALS WITH THE EUROPEAN
COAL AND STEEL COMMUNITY, BECAUSE OF THE NEED TO AWAIT
RATIFICATION BY THE MEMBER STATES. THE " NORWEGIAN MODEL"
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RESEMBLES FAIRLY CLOSELY THE SWEDISH AGREEMENT

ON COAL AND STEEL PRODUCTS, AND WILL MEAN, IN ESSENCE
THAT NORWEGIAN SHIPBUILDERS WILL BE JUST AS FREE AS
IN THE PAST TO BUILD AND SELL THEIR SHIPS. HOWEVER, THEY
MUST INFORM THE COMMISSION OF THE PRICE OF THE STEEL THEY
USE.

6. COMMENT: THE NORWEGIAN MISSION, MOSTLY BECAUSE OF
THE GOOD CONCESSIONS ACHIEVED IN FISH PRODUCTS, EXPECTS
THERE WILL BE NO PROBLEM OBTAINING PARLIAMENTARY APPROVAL.

GREENWALD

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*** Current Classification *** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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